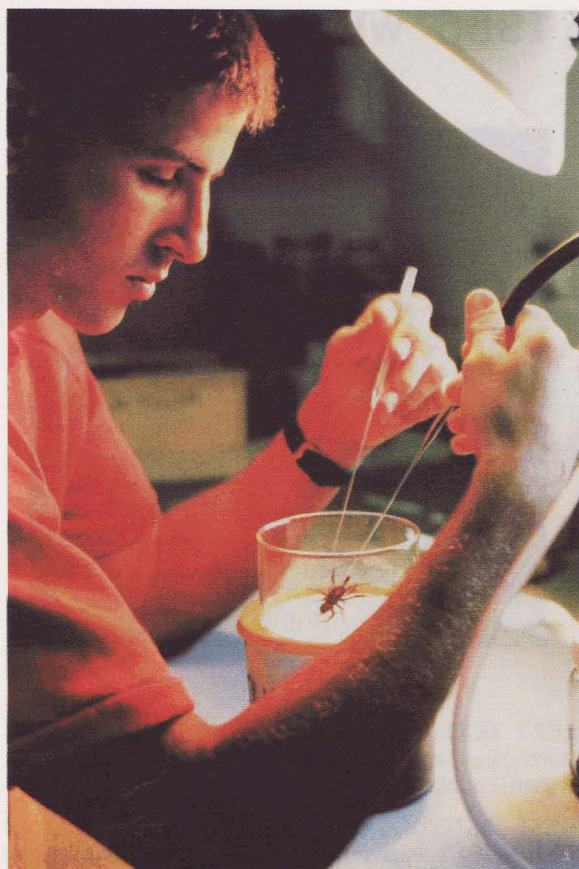


MAINTAINING A FUNNEL WEB COLONY

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- * Usually found in areas of natural seepage of little disturbance to surrounding area.
i.e. building materials such as tiles, sheet iron, piles of wood, virtually anything that has been left untouched for a period of time.
- * Easy to capture as they do not jump and will either try to run away or hold their ground if disturbed.
- * Can be forced into any container with a round opening by means of a prod of some description.
- * Or, with experience and speed, can be apprehended by a pair of 20cm forceps.
- * This can be done by grabbing any one of its eight limbs, not the pedi palps ♂ or palps ♀ as you may damage them.
- * When the funnel web is apprehended, it should be kept moist at all times by a wad of damp cotton wool, placed inside the closed container with the specimen.
- * For long term storage they seem to survive best in large styrofoam boxes made for transporting seafood interstate.
- * In jars preferably with a wide mouth and about 10cm high so spiders can be easily removed or replaced with forceps.
- * These jars should contain a layer of peat moss covered with a layer of sand preferably sterilized to keep down mite infestations.
- * Most important, a small tray for a wad of damp cotton wool.
- * We used small weighing trays pressed into the sand.
- * These would need to be dampened once monthly, also peat and sand layers need to be moistened monthly.
- * Spiders survived on mealworms but thrived on a whole baby mouse (dead — freshly killed) once monthly rather than mealworms every week.
- * Problems encountered — were mites which were removed by a pasteur pipette vacuum periodically, depending on how many were there; they kill spider if too many, but most have a few all the time.
- * They can also get internal parasites, which causes a swelling at the abdomen. Can't treat, eventually kills spider.
- * Can also be affected by a mould which kills them slowly.



- * Venom can be removed from the spider without sacrificing it. By the same method as getting rid of mite.
- * Only that tube must be coated with coatasil for 30 sec. then washed with re-distilled methanol 2-3 times.
- * Then allowed to dry in a drying tube.
- * When milking spiders you need good light and a prod as well as your milking tube hooked up to the vacuum system, i.e. (pump of some sort), venom sticks to glass, stays in tube.
- * Spiders are easily aggravated as they are naturally aggressive.
- * Will stand up on hind legs and strike with fangs.
- * Must be kept upright with prod and venom can be easily removed from end of fangs, in the form of small droplets.
- * You can extract venom from a number of spiders with the same prepared tube, as long as they are of the same species, as different species have a variation of constituents in their venom.
- * Can be dried at room temperature very stable.
- * Stored in freezer for extended periods.

Any enquiries regarding these spiders can be directed to Macquarie University Funnel Web Research Unit at (02) 88 9270.